

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 over Drouillard '467.

The present invention relates to a roof rack. As set forth, e.g., in claim 1, the roof rack includes a pair of parallel roof rails connected to a vehicle roof, a cross rail connecting the roof rails, and a stopper mechanism fixing the cross rails to the roof rails. The stopper mechanism also includes a cam member and a contact member contacting the cam member. The cross rail is movable relative to the roof rail when the handle is in a first position, and immovable when the handle is in a second position. Furthermore, the roof rails are compressed, and contact a holder relative to the roof rails upon movement of the contact member relative to the cam member, when the handle is in the second position, and a shaft penetrates holes provided at a central portion of the cam member and the contact member.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each feature of the claims is disclosed in a single reference expressly or inherently. Drouillard '467 discloses a roof rack having parallel roof rails, a cross rail, and a stopper. Drouillard does not disclose in combination with the above features, that the stopper includes a cam member and a contact member for contacting the cam member, or that the roof rails compressively contact a holder movable relative to the roof rails upon movement of the contact member relative to the cam member when that handle is at the second position. Nor does Drouillard disclose, in combination with the above features, that a shaft penetrates holes provided at the central portion of the cam member and the contact member. For at least these reasons, Drouillard does not anticipate the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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